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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/882,140	06/15/2001	Tim Coffield	087522-785-155	9254
28104	7590	03/02/2004	EXAMINER	
JONES DAY 77 WEST WACKER CHICAGO, IL 60601-1692			HARRIS, STEPHANIE N	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3636	

DATE MAILED: 03/02/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/882,140

Applicant(s)

COFFIELD ET AL.

Examiner

Stephanie Harris

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 11-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 11-18 and 21 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 19 and 20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 August 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

Upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of claims 19 and 20. Therefore, the previous rejection has been withdrawn. This office action is in response to Applicant's amendment filed January 12, 2004.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Morris (USPN 3321780).

Morris discloses a fabric panel (23) with a flexible carrier, formed by the hem stitches (131, 128), which extends around the periphery edges of the panel as seen in Figure 7. The flexible carrier is fastened to the fabric panel via hem stitching (Col. 6, lines 51-61; Col. 7, lines 3 and 4). The carrier has opposed upper corners (27). The carrier is configured to be secured at the upper corners to two generally vertically extending supports (14') of a chair back frame as seen in Figure 2.

Regarding claim 20, the carrier has a bottom edge (224) that is configured to be directly attached along substantially the entire bottom edge (218) to a chair back frame as seen in Figure 9.

Claims 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hook (USPN 330705).

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Hook discloses a fabric panel (A) with a flexible carrier (t), formed by the hem stitches (lines 55-65), which extends around the periphery edges of the panel as seen in Figure 3. The flexible carrier (t) is fastened to the fabric panel via hem stitching (lines 55-65). The carrier has opposed upper corners as seen in Figure 3. The carrier is configured to be secured and suspended at the upper corners to two generally vertically extending supports (P) of a chair back frame as seen in Figure 2 (Lines 83-102).

Regarding claim 20, the carrier has a bottom edge that is configured to be directly attached along substantially the entire bottom edge (f, h) to a chair back frame as seen in Figures 2 and 3 (Lines 83-102).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 11-18 and 21 are allowed.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following patents are cited to further show the state of the art with respect to flexible chair backs: USPN 2651058, USPN 5673444, USPN 5652982, USPN 330705, and US006695408B1.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephanie Harris whose telephone number is 703-305-1838. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9am to 3pm.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Pete Cuomo, can be reached on (703) 308-0827. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

SNH

February 24, 2004

Stephanie Harris
Examiner
Art Unit 3636


Peter M. Cuomo
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 3600